

Bighorns occupy a fraction of historic range...

Bighorns native to
Cascade foothills, Blue Mtns,
and patches within Selkirks

Extirpated in
Washington by 1935 (Johnson
1983:112)

WILD SHEEP™
Foundation

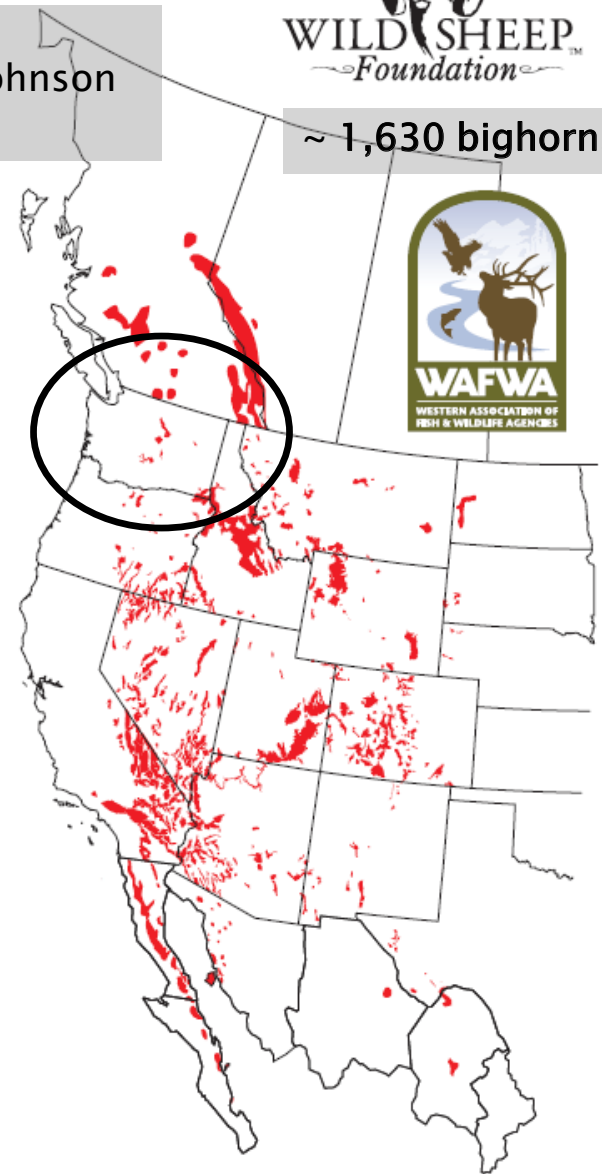
~ 1,630 bighorns



CIRCA 1850



CIRCA 1960

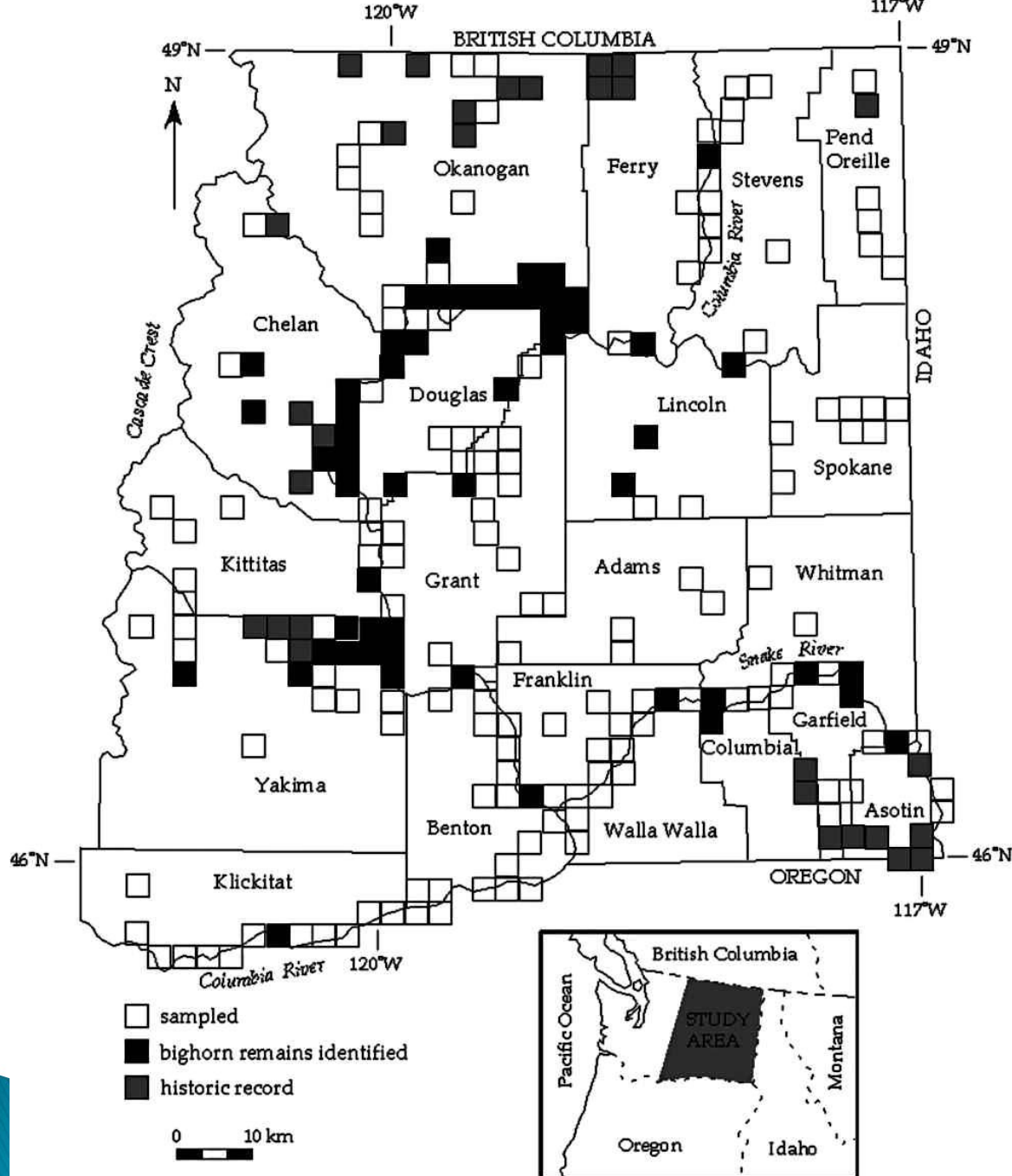


CIRCA 2012

Why did bighorns disappear in Washington?

“While many bighorns were probably extirpated because of indiscriminate hunting....disease is probably the principal cause of bighorn declines...Bacteria and parasites of domestic stock may be particularly devastating because bighorns have no natural resistance to these organisms. In Washington State, bighorn declines occurred shortly after cattle and particularly sheep grazing became common in the high country....”

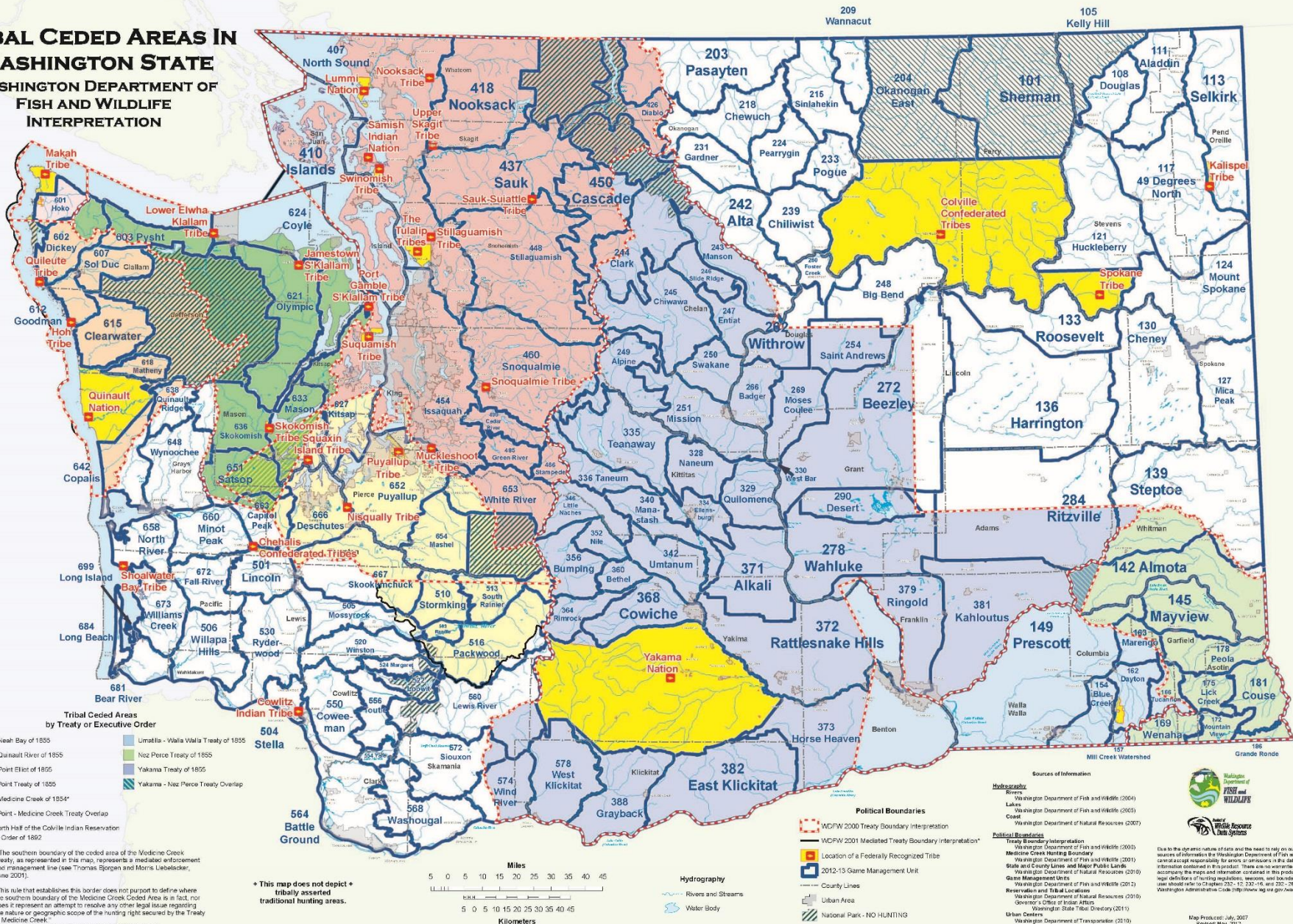
– R. L. Johnson, 1983, “Mountain goats and mountain sheep of Washington: 117.



Lyman, R. L. 2009. The Holocene history of bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) in eastern Washington state, northwestern USA. *The Holocene* 19:143-150.

TRIBAL CEDED AREAS IN WASHINGTON STATE

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE
INTERPRETATION

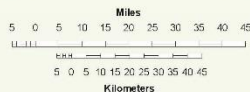


*The southern boundary of the ceded area of the Medicine Creek Treaty, as represented in this map, represents a mediated enforcement and management line (see Thomas Spogen and Morris Lebedeker, June 2001).

*This rule that establishes this border does not purport to define where the southern boundary of the Medicine Creek Ceded Area is in fact, nor does it represent an attempt to resolve any other legal issue regarding the nature or geographic scope of the hunting rights secured by the Treaty of Medicine Creek.

Washington Administrative Code 232-12-263 Section 4

*This map does not depict +
tribally asserted
traditional hunting areas.

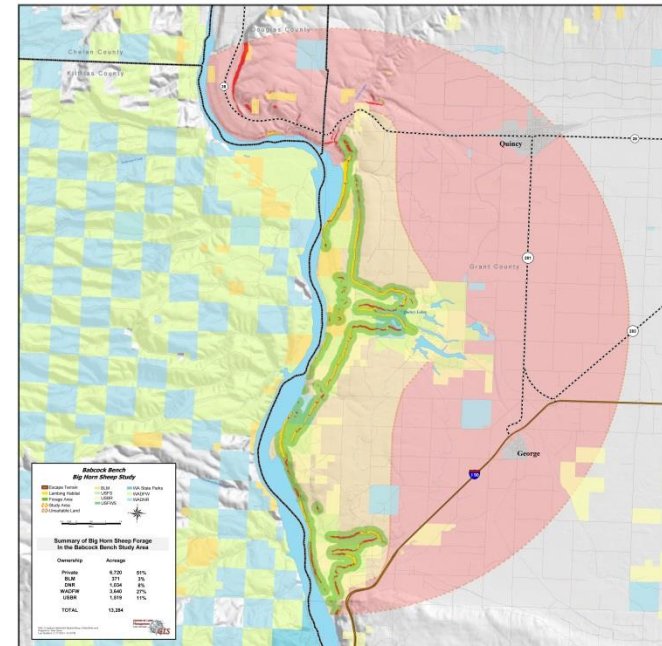
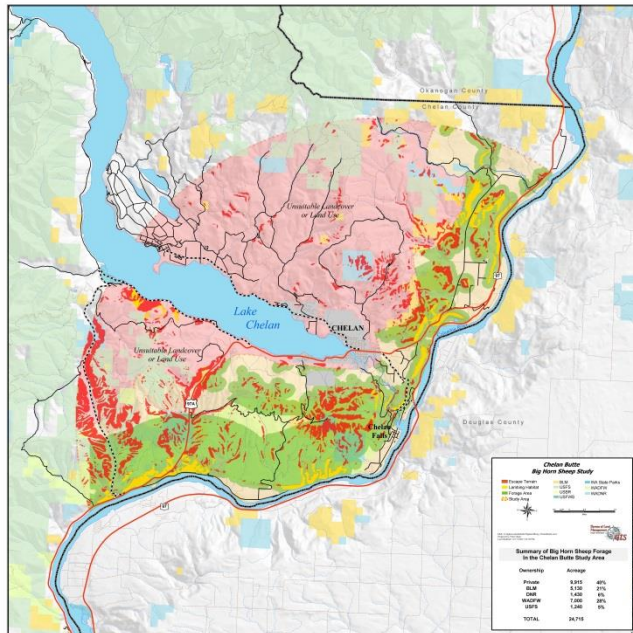
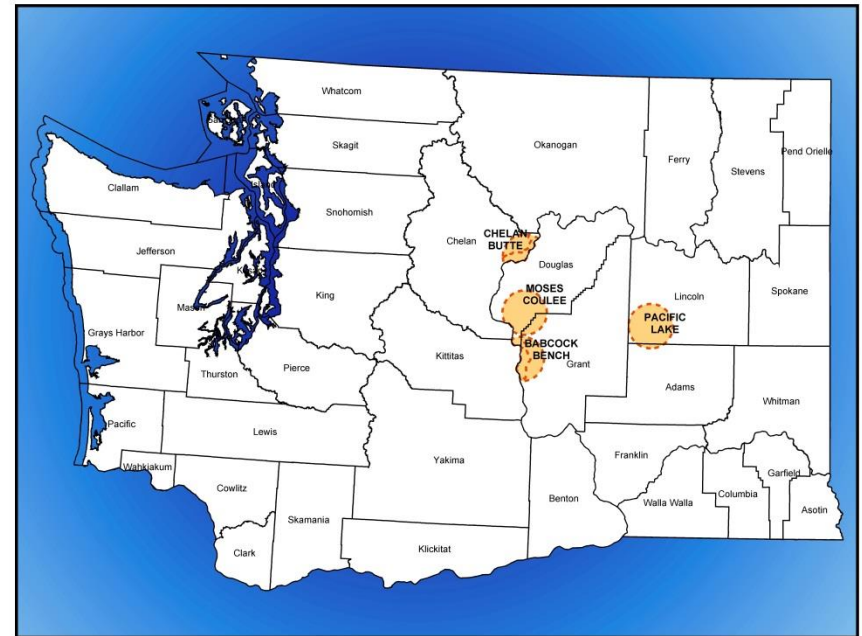


Due to the dynamic nature of data and the need to rely on outside sources of information the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions in the data and information contained in this product. There are no warranties that accompany the maps and information contained in this product. For legal definitions of hunting regulations, seasons, and boundaries, the user should refer to Chapters 232, 17, 230-16, and 232-28 of the Washington Administrative Code (<http://www.wa.gov/law/>).

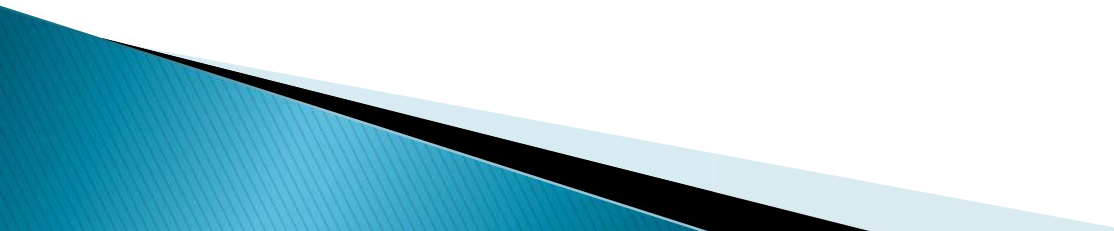
Bighorn Reintroduction Site Evaluation



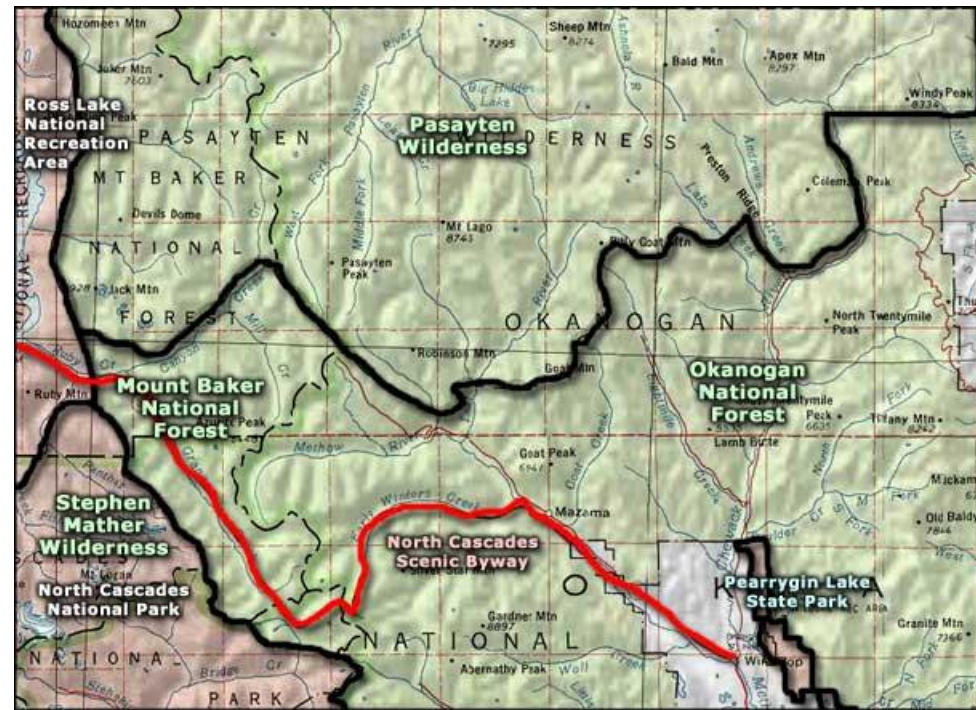
Prepared by: John Musser, Wildlife Biologist and
Peter Dwyer, Telecommunication Specialist



What we've learned over the years....

- ▶ Most (albeit not all) sites for reintroduction were good ideas
 - ▶ Bighorns need not only typical escape terrain, but good forage
 - ▶ Bighorns in small, isolated patches struggle
 - ▶ Bighorns in large, connected patches do well
 - ▶ Bighorns on private lands lead to conflicts
 - ▶ We've improved our understanding of bighorn pneumonia
 - ▶ Learned about bighorn foray movements (required GPS collars and large data set)
- 

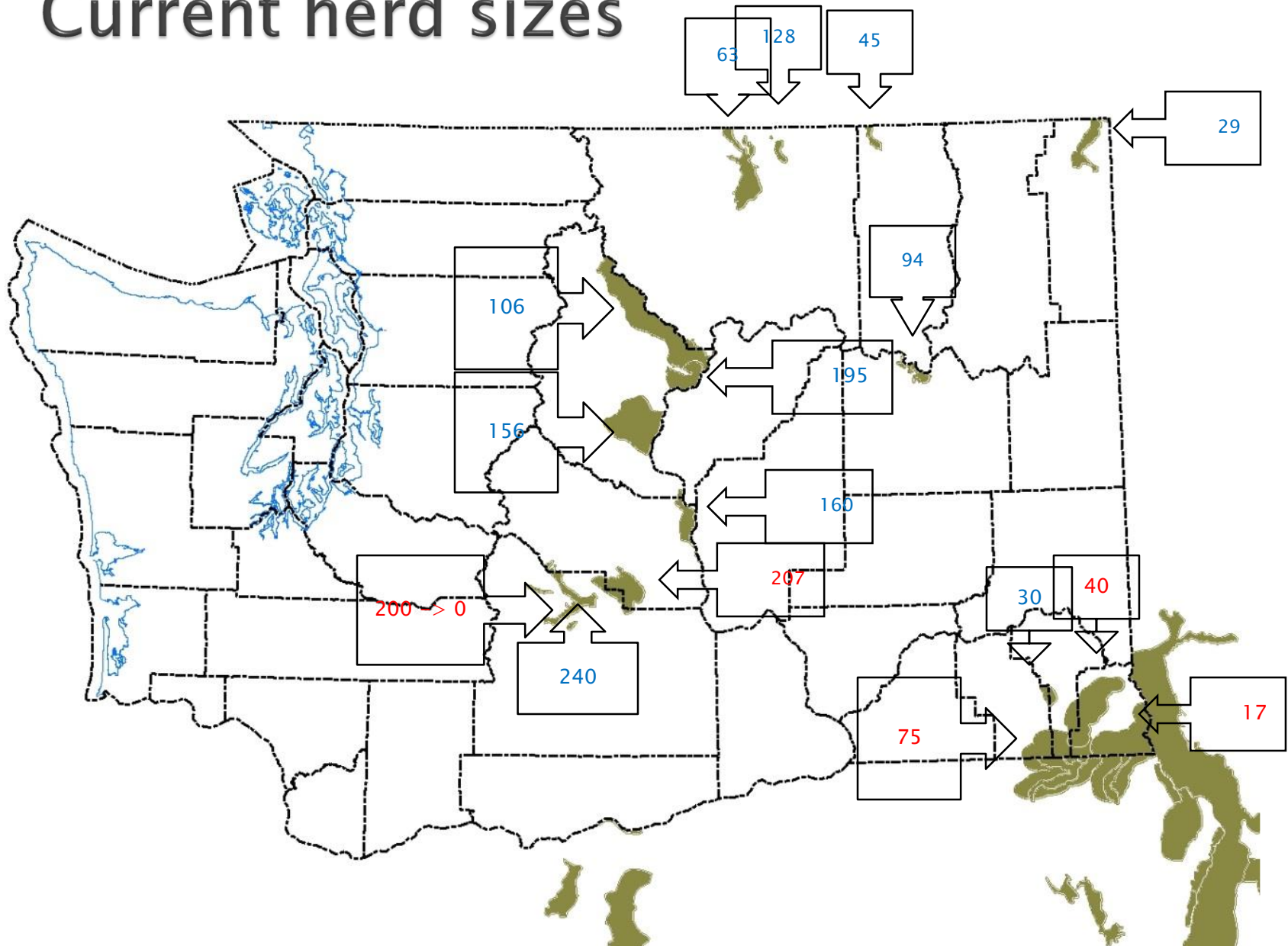
New herd in Pasayten?



- Scabies issue
- Wilderness access
- Uncertain success



Current herd sizes



History of vet testing

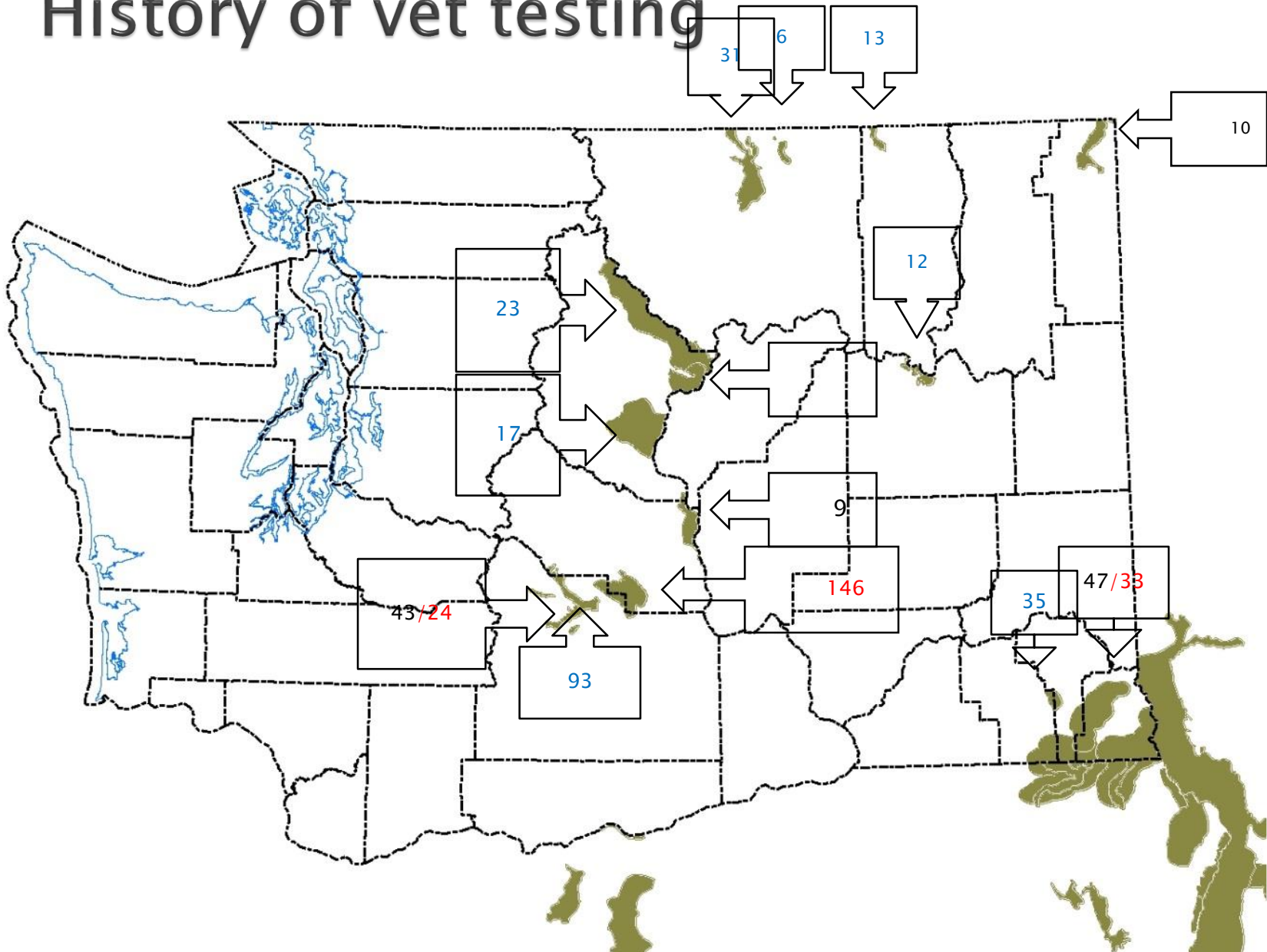




Figure 1. Distribution of 18 bighorn sheep populations within the Hells Canyon Initiative project area. Individual population ranges are a general representation of the area used by bighorn sheep. They do not reflect current distribution or available habitat.



Pneumonia-decimated Tieton bighorn nearly gone

POSTED ON APRIL 30, 2013

By Scott Sandsberry

Yakima Herald-Republic

YAKIMA, Wash. — Five or six years ago, the Tieton bighorn herd included nearly 200 sheep. Now it has fewer than 10 — the same ones drivers occasionally see licking U.S. Highway 12 rumble strips for what's left of last winter's salt-based de-icer.

Soon enough, those few remaining bighorns will be gone. Either they'll die on their own or they'll be shot by agents of the same state wildlife department that put them there in the first place.

A pneumonia outbreak, presumed to have been transmitted from domestic sheep or goats that carry the disease-causing pathogens but are largely immune to them, wiped out about 100 members of the herd between last fall and this spring.

Since last month, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officials have killed another 49 of the herd to keep the disease from spreading to the neighboring, still disease-free Cleman Mountain herd.

In the next year or two, those officials expect to begin the process of restarting the herd with transplanted animals from healthy herds — the same way they did it the first time in 1997, when they brought in bighorns from Oregon, Canada and elsewhere in Washington.

The Tieton herd “went from no sheep to a small huntable population within five or six years, so hopefully we can do that again,” said Ted Clausing, the state's regional wildlife program director. “It's still a valuable resource, and having another herd is a good thing. (Another die-off) could happen in the Cleman next time, and it would be nice to have a healthy herd right next door.



Clemans

Tieton



The riddle of bighorn pneumonia: Lambs dying again

By Scott Sandsberry

ssandsberry@yakimaherald.com Sep 17, 2015 (4)



Total Lamb Recruitment by Area

